

MINUTES
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES
SEPTEMBER 28, 2001

The regular meeting of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges was held on Friday, September 28, 2001, at 9:00 a.m. at Meridian Community College in Meridian, Mississippi.

Members present: Brenda Collins, Donald Green, Veldore Heidelberg, Jimmy Murphy, George Walker, and Lawrence Warren.

Members absent: Sara Fox, Joanna Heidel, Henry Hudspeth, and David Marsh.

Staff in attendance: Dr. Olon Ray, Dr. Randall Bradberry, Becky Cade, Dr. Larry L. Day, Deborah Gilbert, Sandra Lucas, Dr. Wayne Stonecypher, Dr. Evelyn Webb, and Frankie Walton White.

Guests in attendance: Dr. Bill Smith – IHL, Dr. Rick Christmas – Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Dr. Ron Whitehead – Jones County Junior College, Dr. Tommy Davis – East Mississippi Community College, and Dr. Scott Elliott and Dr. Tommy McDonald – Meridian Community College.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman George Walker called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m., and all guests present introduced themselves.

PRELIMINARIES

Brenda Collins gave the invocation.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Olon Ray reminded the Board of the upcoming Mississippi Supreme Court Hearing scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on October 8, 2001. He invited any interested party to attend the appeal hearing and also stated that the proceeding could be viewed by logging-on to the Supreme Court's web site.

Dr. Ray gave a brief report on the September 12, 2001, Joint Legislative Budget Office hearing.

Dr. Ray also gave a report on the Mississippi Virtual Community College (MSVCC). Current enrollment is in excess of 7,000 students and continues to grow by leaps and bounds.

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher gave an overview of the Budget Committee Report. He reported that the MACJC legislative platform was presented during the meeting and highlighted areas of need. He stated that the presidents felt it imperative to present the colleges' needs knowing realistically that monies would not be available to fill all the needs.

Dr. Ray reported on meetings with the heads of IHL and the State Department of Education in an effort to coordinate work of the agencies. The initiative led by SBCJC Chairman, George Walker, is beginning to take shape and bear fruit.

SBCJC Minutes: September 28, 2001

Approval of Minutes of the August 23-24, 2001, Board Meetings

On a motion by Jimmy Murphy, and a second by Veldore Heidelberg, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 23-24, 2001, meetings.

Review and Approval of Agenda

On a motion by Veldore Heidelberg, and a second by Donald Green, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

REPORTS/ACTION

MACJC Report

Dr. Tommy Davis reported on items discussed at the September 25, 2001, Mississippi Association of Community and Junior College (MACJC) Presidents' meeting.

The Association had a discussion related to students and staff that have been or may be called to active military duty due to the events of September 11, 2001. The consensus of the MACJC was to support and aid the students and staff members in every way possible.

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher discussed with the MACJC the SBCJC's efforts to obtain on-line non-credit workforce training programs that could be offered over the MSVCC. MACJC Chairman, Dr. Starkey Morgan, appointed a committee to work with Dr. Stonecypher in the matter.

A discussion on the Full Time Equivalency (FTE) Funding Formula was held and changes that would be reflected from the new SBCJC Campus/Center designations.

The MACJC Regional Legislative Meetings schedule was discussed.

Immediately following the meeting the MACJC presidents had lunch with Governor Ronnie Musgrove at the Mansion. The Governor shared with them his concerns and discussed his idea to utilize some of the tobacco settlement to help fund Medicare, freeing up funds for other state needs.

Workforce Report

George Walker reported that the SBCJC, in response to the State Workforce Development Council's request, had contracted with Mr. Jim Bunch to coordinate efforts of the State Workforce Council, Education, and the Federal Workforce Investment Act programs. The main focus of this effort is to try and tap into federal workforce funds to help provide training for Mississippi employers.

Welcome and Comments

Dr. Scott Elliott welcomed the SBCJC to Meridian Community College. He commended Veldore

SBCJC Minutes: September 28, 2001

Heidelberg, who serves on the SBCJC from the Meridian Community College District, for her support of the college. Mrs. Heidelberg gave the keynote address during commencement ceremonies last year.

Dr. Elliott discussed Meridian's efforts to rejoin the athletic program of the MACJC. He gave a brief report on Meridian Community College's unique situation, inasmuch as they have a one county college district and that county is also shared with East Mississippi Community College. He discussed with the SBCJC his objections and perspective related to the SBCJC's changes to the guidelines for campus/center designations.

Mr. Walker thanked Dr. Elliott and Meridian Community College for hosting the September SBCJC meeting.

Cooperative work with IHL and the Department of Education

Mr. Walker gave a brief update on meetings with IHL Commissioner, Dr. Tom Layzell, and State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Richard Thompson, SBCJC Executive Director, Olon Ray, and the Chairmen of the IHL Board, SBCJC, and State Board of Education, to try and make progress in the effort to provide more education opportunities for the people of Mississippi. The SBCJC initiated the negotiation efforts to provide a more intensified dialogue for the state to examine ways to cooperate to provide additional improved educational benefits for not only the Gulf Coast area, but to the entire state. It was the consensus of the Board to support Mr. Walker in his continuing efforts to promote coordination of the three educational entities.

Approval of Policies and Procedures

Dr. Olon Ray presented the SBCJC Guidelines for Establishing a New Campus or Off-Campus Site and for Changing the Instructional Mission at an Extension Center or Off-Campus Site (Exhibit A). The guidelines, previously approved by the Board, have now completed the Administrative Procedures process and are ready for action.

The SBCJC entered into a discussion of concerns and issues related to the guidelines. Lawrence Warren asked for input from the community and junior college representatives in attendance. Dr. Ron Whitehead, Dr. Tommy Davis, and Dr. Rick Christmas discussed with the Board their perspectives with regard to the guidelines.

Upon a motion by Lawrence Warren, and a second by Jimmy Murphy, the SBCJC approved the Guidelines for Establishing a New Campus or Off-Campus Site for Changing the Instructional Mission at an Extension Center or Off-Campus Site. Motion passed. (Voting Yes – Walker, Warren, Murphy, Collins, and Green. Ms. Heidelberg abstained.)

Dr. Ray presented the guidelines for the SBCJC State Funding for Mississippi Virtual Community College (Exhibit B) for Board action. Upon a motion by Jimmy Murphy, and a second by Brenda Collins, the Board voted unanimously to approve the SBCJC State Funding for Mississippi Virtual Community College Guidelines.

Dr. Olon Ray asked that action on the SBCJC Special Called SBCJC Meetings procedure be deferred until the next meeting.

SBCJC Minutes: September 28, 2001

EdNet Report

Mr. Jimmy Murphy reported on agenda items discussed at an EdNet Board meeting held on September 17, 2001. The following concerns were discussed:

The decision of the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) regarding the Instructional Television Fixed Services (ITFS) licenses has been made. The FCC has agreed to leave all educational licenses as they are now being used.

This decision will impact EdNet's attempt to find a new partner or partners now that Worldcom-Wireless One has retracted its proposal and the present contract will expire in 2002.

Does EdNet have adequate and appropriate counsel in Sam Keys of Butler, Snow, O'Mara, Stevens, and Cannada, PLLC, Attorneys at Law?

How will EdNet maintain fairness as it resolves the issues of "benefits" previously provided to EdNet employees? (Dental and vision insurance.)

A draft for a Request for Proposals (RFP) has been developed for the purpose of soliciting a new private partner(s). EdNet counsels are reviewing the draft RFP that will be issued for a new partner who will provide a digital infrastructure with the potential of providing broadband wireless data and Internet service emphasizing rural areas of Mississippi.

EdNet is exploring the possibility of inviting David Litchliter, Executive Director of the Department of Information and Technology Services (ITS), to sit on the EdNet Board. This will require a change in the EdNet By-Laws.

Mr. Murphy stated that monthly royalty checks from WorldCom continue to decrease each month by \$500 or more.

He also stated that monthly expenses are paid through drawdowns from the EdNet Schwab account.

Mr. Murphy reported that EdNet Board President, Martin Mangold, is very attentive to EdNet matters and addresses the business matters aggressively. EdNet's concerns and issues are placed openly on the table for discussion, research, and solutions.

Mr. Murphy distributed a copy of a news release entitled Groups to keep airwaves space for the Board's information (Exhibit C). The article relates to the debate over the ITFS licensees and the FCC's decision in favor of the current license holders.

Finance Report

Upon a motion by Veldore Heidelberg, and a second by Lawrence Warren, the Board voted unanimously to approve the General Fund Disbursements for October, November and December from Fund 2298 in the respective amounts of \$6,253,360, \$5,143,632, and \$5,143,632 (Exhibit D).

SBCJC Minutes: September 28, 2001

Upon a motion by Brenda Collins, and a second by Veldore Heidelberg, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Education Enhancement Fund Disbursements for September 2001, from funds 4080, 4110, and 3295, in the total amount of \$2,596,478.00 (Exhibit E).

Deborah Gilbert presented financial statements for funds 2291, 3291 and 4300, for FY 2001, including the lapse period (Exhibit F), and funds 2291 and 3291 for FY 2002, for the period ending August 31, 2001, (Exhibit G). No action was required.

Mrs. Gilbert presented a Report on FY 2001 General Fund Lapses and Special Fund Carryforwards for the Board's review (Exhibit H). No action was required.

Upon a motion by Brenda Collins, and a second by Donald Green, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the purchase of VCON VIGO Professional Personal Conference Appliances, including cameras, speaker towers, headsets, and etc. for the E-Audit program from Wire One Technologies in the amount of \$15,280.00 (Exhibit I).

Upon a motion by Jimmy Murphy, and a second by Donald Green, the Board vote unanimously to approve the Z-1 Budget Approvals for FY 2002 for Administration \$39,817 Reappropriation (Exhibit J) and Support \$164,707 Reappropriation (Exhibit K).

Mrs. Gilbert also provided for the Board a data sheet on community and junior college support (Exhibit L) and a report detailing the history of state appropriations from 1989 through 2002 (Exhibit M).

Travel Authorizations

Chairman Walker asked for requests to authorize travel reimbursements for events other than regularly scheduled Board meetings. On a motion by Lawrence Warren, and a second by Veldore Heidelberg, the Board voted unanimously to approve requests for reimbursement of travel expenses for the following:

George Walker for attending the SWDC on October 10, a Federal Workforce Investment Act meeting on October 4, a conference on the Mississippi Gulf Coast on October 15-16, 2001.

Jimmy Murphy for attending the EdNet Board meeting on September 17, 2001, in Jackson.

Reimbursement for any SBCJC member that is able to attend the Supreme Court Appeal Hearing on October 8, 2001, in Jackson.

OTHER BUSINESS

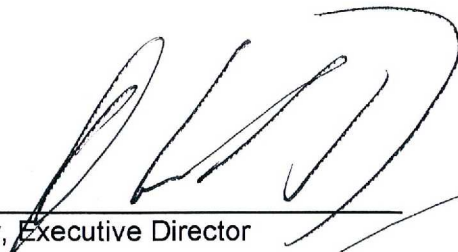
Mr. Walker welcomed Brenda Collins back to the SBCJC after her recuperation from surgery and an accident. He also stated that the SBCJC would keep Veldore Heidelberg in their thoughts and prayers as she prepares for the birth of her child.

SBCJC Minutes: September 28, 2001

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.


George Walker, Chairman


Olon E. Ray, Executive Director